THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJE): (a) The bond obiligation of rupees one lakh is provided in the terms of conditions of appointment only in respect of Scientific dficers appointed through BARC Training School.

(a) No sir. During the last five years only 19 out of 700 such Scientific Officers have left service during the bond period.

(b) The reaons for leaving have been stated to be personal by the officers concerned.

(d) and (e) Questions do not arise in view of the negligible number of resignations as compared to the number of Scientific Officers appointed.

Indo-US Nuclear cooperation

2945. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports regarding cleaning of bottlenecks for Indo-US nuclear cooperation;

(b) if so, the details of assistance; and

(b) the help on the space front to be rendered by NASA and National Optical Astronomy Observatory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(j) The mutually beneficial cooperation covers some areas pertaining to nuclear safety.

(k) In 1997, a joint MOU has been signed between Department of Space (DOS) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of USA for cooperation in the areas of earth and atmospheric sciences. It includes exchange of satellite data and carrying out joint research projects in areas of mutual interest. The MOU has been renewed in 2002.